



500.38952X00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Hirofumi TERADA et al.  
Serial No.: 09/651,583  
Filed: August 29, 2000  
For: SERVICE SUPPLY SYSTEM  
Group: 2155  
Examiner: D. Lazaro

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
2004  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 14, 2004,

Sir:

In response to the Office Actions dated March 15, 2004 and July 15, 2004,  
and preliminary to the examination of the RCE being filed concurrently with this  
amendment, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2.

**Remarks** are included following the amendments.